

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority  
**Telephone Meeting – 2:00 p.m.**  
**February 15, 2018 - Meeting Notes**

**Board Members Present:** Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Lonnie Willey, Town of Pe Ell; Brian Shay, City of Hoquiam; Frank Chestnut, City of Cosmopolis; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Vickie Raines, Grays Harbor Commissioner; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Trent Lougheed, City of Chehalis; Dan Wood, City of Montesano; Bud Blake, Thurston County Commissioner

**Board Members Absent:** Richard Armstrong, City of Oakville; Jim Haslett, City of Napavine

**Others Present:** Kris Koski, City of Aberdeen; Rick Sanger, City of Aberdeen; J. Vander Stoep, alternate to Pe Ell; Lee Napier, Lewis County Community Development Director

**Handouts/Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Meeting notes from October 19, 2017
- 2018 Flood Warning System Costs
- Projects Committee Recommendation on Use of Unspent Funds
- Financial Reports
- See [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/34798/Default.aspx#Feb2018](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/34798/Default.aspx#Feb2018)

**1. Call to Order**

Vickie called meeting to order at 2:02.

**2. Introductions**

The members introduced themselves as they called in to the conference call.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Scott asked to add a discussion regarding Lewis County setting up consulting contracts for the remainder of this biennium. There was consensus. It will be Item 5.5.

**4. Approval of Meeting Notes**

There were no changes or corrections and there was consensus to approve.

**5. Endorsement of Recent Decisions by Executive Committee**

Scott stated that in December the Executive Committee convened to discuss the 2018 annual costs for the Flood Warning System. Costs that were approved included a \$1600 increase from last year; the largest increase was to buy more capacity in One Rain system to add more sensors. Distribution of cost will be the same for each county. Ron asked if the new contract includes 2 new gages. Scott stated, no – they were already paid for in 2018.

The Executive Committee also discussed the reallocation of unspent money. The Committee de-obligated some funds from some projects; now that we have a capital budget we are putting money back. Some projects have been completed and there are excess funds. Those will go into an unspent funds bucket. Another project (not successful) were farm pads in Thurston County. The Committee reallocated \$200,000 from the original \$450,000 to the completion of three farm pads in Thurston County and one in Lewis County, the balance going into the unspent bucket.

Commissioner Fund asked if there were objections to the two decisions. There was consensus to approve.

#### **5.5. Flood Authority contracts for March 2018-June 2019.**

In June of 2017 the Flood Authority approved scopes of work for SBGH, Kramer Consulting and French and Associates, and funding for Lewis County that was for 2017-2019. We did not get a capital budget so Lee and RCO created stop gaps to keep contractors going and now that we have a capital budget we need to set up fully-funded contracts for these contractors. Lee is looking for affirmation from the Flood Authority to reestablish these contracts. The table shows original distribution of how funding was to be used, totaling \$380,000 and additionally provided the distribution for the remaining 16 months of biennium. The \$380,000 won't change; there may be some minor changes to line items. For the Flood Authority's consideration: Authorize Lewis County to move forward to implement funding for these contractors.

Ron asked if this goes to the end of the biennium, will Kramer Consulting continue, or will the Office of Chehalis Basin take over. Chair Raines stated she and Commissioner Fund are talking about that issue with Jim and they will have a recommendation at the next meeting.

Commissioner Fund asked if there was opposition to Item 5.5. Lee asked if it was expected that we would contract with Kramer, or if it would go to the Ruckelshaus Center. Chair Raines stated it should be left as they are, and if changes need to be made they will be brought forward. Lee stated Jim's contract expires at the end of this month. Scott asked if there was approval to re-set the three contracts as they were in the past. There was consensus.

#### **6. Update: Local Projects**

Scott stated there are now 15 of the 2015 projects that are functionally complete - meaning they provide flood protection now, we are very close to closing them out with RCO, and/or they need some minor work. 3 projects are still in the construction phase; we are close to finishing 13 projects and funds are 90% spent for 2015 projects.

New projects – We received \$9.2 million for local projects. We identified 2 tiers and the \$9.2 million was for Priority 1 projects so those are moving to agreement. Aberdeen North Shore levee is due to go to council. Kris stated he has the draft but is not sure he needs council approval because the city has already received the grant and an approved contract with the consultant.

Scott stated we are amending China Creek project to \$2.5 million. For Montesano \$5 million went through council. That will go to RCO for final execution. The Thurston County flood study for \$100,000 is not back yet. The Coast Salmon Foundation pilot project for the web-based tracking tool funded through 2017 will go to unspent bucket. The majority of the \$9.2 million is already in play administratively.

The Project Committee is to come up with ideas for unspent funds. We have \$641,000 in 2015-2017 unspent funds. The Committee identified 4 projects: contribute \$617 thousand to the Aberdeen North Shore levee – the scale and scope is larger than what was funded. The Boistfort Valley project needs some money (\$5 thousand) for overruns; and \$8,500 for 3 flood authority gages. The Project Committee had a request from Lewis County Flood Control District to get a comprehensive plan started. Before they can do projects, they need that plan. The Committee recommends providing seed money for that at \$10 thousand.

Scott stated there are two other projects we are watching for future potential unspent funds: China Creek and the Wishkah flood levee. J stated that last year when the capital budget didn't pass a task the Project Committee took on was to go to Centralia and ask for \$800,000 to be turned back over, which would help fund the fish and flood work across the basin. Centralia said yes and that was the largest contribution given back – J didn't want that willingness to help be forgotten. China Creek is a good project for downtown protection.

Commissioner Fund asked if there was consensus for these unspent funds. There was consensus to approve.

## **7. Update – Outreach**

Scott asked the members to think about whether the Flood Authority wants to participate in either or both fairs this summer. This will be an agenda topic in the months to come. There is an updated brochure of 4 pages about the bigger picture of strategy, etc. On December 4 there was a webinar on the Flood Warning System. Scott has a recording of the webinar if anyone is interested, as well as answers to questions that were raised. This was a good thing to do because it provided an opportunity to engage with the public and it felt like a good way to bring our world closer to people who are not right here. Another valuable webinar we could do is on the hydraulic model. We talk about it all the time and it might educate people, and it would be a good way to spread the Flood Authority connection.

## **9. Financial Report**

Lee reported that for October expenses were \$9,132.72; November's were \$15,012.94; \$11,851.96 for December. This month was the first installment for the USGS gage datum reset. January's salaries and wages came to \$8,640.03, which includes Lewis County and support groups. Lee noted that during the month of January Lewis County BOCC passed a resolution approving RCO to provide continuing funding for \$45,000. We amended the PSAs for SBGH and French.

## **10. Reports**

### **a. Chair's Report**

The Chair has no report.

### **b. Member Reports**

*Pe Ell* – J. stated there are currently discussions with state legislators. We are updating the senators who have been instrumental in getting capital funding for the Flood Authority and Chehalis Basin Partnership. We would like to come to the 2019 session with what we want to do but because the capital budget was delayed we will not be in a position to do that. It will be 2020 before that is on the table. Along the way we are updating on the overall process – North Shore levee, the dam, etc. A lot of work got done because of the cooperation between the Flood Authority and Office of Chehalis Basin.

A question was asked why Sen. Takko was not included. J stated he was on the list, but we went with people most outspoken on the timelines. We are planning a meeting with everyone in the basin.

*Aberdeen* – Kris stated the North Shore levee design is under way as well as final design funding. The consultants are moving forward, and also for Fry Creek.

*Cosmopolis* – Frank stated most of the heavy work is done – the dam is poured and functional. Fish ladder and weirs are in place, as well as landscape plantings. Frank expects them to be back on the job in late April with completion in June.

*Centralia* - Ron thanked J. for commenting on the city's contribution from China Creek. We were able to do this because the bid on Phase I came in higher and we were not able to go forward. We are behind because the Corps was slow; he is not sure that Phase II can get done this biennium.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

J. informed the group that there is a new person with the Corps: Bob Thomas. He comes from a very different background and has been quite responsive in the past few months.

d. State Team

There was no State Team report.

**11. Confirm Next Meeting**

The March meeting will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00-12:00 in Lewis County unless it's a phone call. Chair Raines stated there needs to be discussion soon about moving Flood Authority general meetings to quarterly meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.